

## **12:00 PM M&J Starkey Farms, Brownsburg, IN**

**What:** 6<sup>th</sup> generation family farm raising corn, soybeans, wheat, and beef, tour and WOTUS Roundtable

**Who:** Mikey and Jeff Starkey, owners and operators

**Background:** M&J sets the gold standard for a successful, "no-till" agricultural operation and soil and water conservation practices. The farm lies within the School Branch Watershed, which includes the third largest tributary feeding Eagle Creek reservoir, the primary source of drinking water for the City of Indianapolis. Because of this, their operation is under extreme scrutiny. By adopting conservation practices such as no-till for cash crops in the off season, cover crop planting, and applying the smallest amount of fertilizer possible, Starkey has increased water retention and soil health tremendously. These practices aid his operation during drought, prevent flooding, and nitrogen runoff. For 15 years, his 100% no-till and water/soil retention practices, have ensured the runoff entering the watershed is cleaner than ever.

Starkey has received acclaim in the region for his conservation practices and studies of nutrient runoff. He is also a member of the Indiana Association of Soil and Water Conservation Districts and Supervisor on the Hendricks County SWDC.

### **Other Attendees:**

- Governor Holcomb
- Lieutenant Governor Crouch (also Indiana's Secretary of Agriculture)
- Mike Starkey, owner, Starkey Farm
- Ron Turco, Purdue University Department of Agronomy
- Justin Schneider, Lead Water Quality Policy Director, Indiana Farm Bureau
- Randy Kron, President, Indiana Farm Bureau
- Jane Stevens, President & CEO, Indiana Soybean and Corn Organizations
- Jordan Seger, Indiana Department of Agriculture
- Jane Hardisty, Indiana State Conservationist, USDA Natural Resources Conservation Science
- Jennifer Boyle Warner, Executive Director, Indiana Soil & Water Conservation Districts
- Bruno Pigott, Commissioner, Indiana Department of Environmental Management
- Ted McKinney, Director, Indiana Department of Agriculture
- Martha Clark Mettler, Indiana Department of Environmental Management
- Julia Wickard, Indiana Department of Environmental Management